



# Quarterly Report Narrative

## January 01, 2016 to March 31, 2016

### I. Executive Summary

Organization: <u>American Red Cross</u>	Date: <u>April 29, 2016</u>
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<b>Program Title:</b>	<u>Prototyping an Urban Community Resilience Initiative in SE Asia</u>
<b>Cooperative Agreement No.:</b>	<u>AID-OFDA-A-15-00053</u>
<b>Country(ies)/Region(s):</b>	<u>Indonesia (with Vanuatu proposed as 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot country in pending mod)</u>
<b>Sector:</b>	<u><b>Risk Management Policy and Practice</b></u>
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	<u>January 01, 2016</u> <b>To:</b> <u>March 31, 2016</u>

#### Project Background:

The American Red Cross (ARC) and the Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) are working with Red Cross / Red Crescent (RC/RC) National Societies in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Viet Nam to design and test a set of tools and services to assist RC/RC National Societies and their partners to create effective city coalitions on community resilience, targeting climate smart resilience and coastal risk reduction in particular.

The project is being piloted initially in Indonesia, with Vanuatu proposed as 2nd pilot country in a pending modification, with roll-out to coastal cities in a wider set of countries planned for Phase 2 of the project.

The activities and expected results of the project focus on one primary sector and two associated subsectors:

- Sector: Risk Management Policy and Practice
  - Subsector 1: Building Community Awareness/Mobilization
    - Design and test a model for civic coalitions to guide and support community analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making on coastal resilience
  - Subsector 2: Public-Private Partnerships
    - Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships to enhance public engagement and investment in disaster preparedness and resilience in coastal cities

Building whenever possible on existing approaches, the project is focusing on developing bundles of relevant tools and resources and a model city-wide civic process to build local coalitions to guide and foster work at the community level and tap the wide range of resources available in cities. This coalition-building process draws on the convening power of the RC/RC, but also engages a wider set of interested stakeholders from local government, other civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and community volunteers to identify and pursue locally developed solutions for resilience and climate change adaptation. The RC/RC is also facilitating coordination between these local coalitions and relevant national climate related focal points and regional institutions to ensure local solutions are considered in the national and international level planning processes.

After an initial set of regional inception activities, the project is prototyping the tools and approaches in selected coastal cities in the first pilot country and will focus in particular on addressing climate-related risks, such as changing precipitation patterns, increased coastal flooding and storm surge, and sea level rise. Based on lessons from the initial prototyping, the project will expand to include additional coastal cities in the pilot and regionally in Phase 2.

**Summary of Activities this Quarter:**

The kick-off workshop for the project was held in early March with representatives from seven RC/RC National Societies from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam; three regional resource organizations – the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Institute for social and Environmental Transitions (ISET), and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre; and USAID/OFDA project counterparts.

After the workshop each of the National Societies was invited to submit a short concept note outlining their interest in the project, likely partner interest at country level, their experience with coalitions and multi-stakeholder partnerships in previous projects, and their preliminary plan for initiating the project in up to two cities in their country.

Concept notes were submitted by the RC/RC National Societies in five countries (Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam) and reviewed by the GDPC in consultation with USAID/OFDA project staff. Selection of the first pilot countries is pending. (The inclusion of multiple pilot countries is pending approval of a planned modification that has been discussed with USAID/OFDA staff overseeing the project).

**SECTOR: Risk Management Policy and Practice**

**Objective:** Design and test a model for civic coalitions to guide and support community analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making on resilience.

**Update:** *As of the end of March 2016, project activities were focused on the initial start-up for the project, including the kick-off workshop and selection of the pilot country(ies) for Phase 1 of the project. Reporting against indicators will need to wait until project activities start at the city level in the first pilot country.*

**Sub-sector: Building Community Awareness/Mobilization**

**Indicator #1:** Coverage rates for campaign activities in each city.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and campaign activities have not yet been conducted.

**Indicator #2:** Number of city-wide campaigns to promote community resilience.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and campaigns have not yet been conducted.

**Indicator #3:** Number of community resilience coalitions established or strengthened.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and coalitions have not yet been established.

**Indicator #4:** Number of people participating in training, by gender.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and trainings have not yet been conducted.

**Indicator #5:** Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months (and six months).

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and trainings have not yet been conducted.

**Indicator #6:** Percentage of attendees at joint planning meetings who are from the local community.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and planning meetings have not yet been conducted.

**Indicator #7:** Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of USG assistance, disaggregated by a) Implementing risk-reducing practices/actions to improve resilience to climate change, b) Using climate information in their decision making, and c) With increased knowledge of climate change impacts and response options.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase and local project activities have not yet been conducted.

#### **Sub-sector: Public-Private Partnerships**

**Indicator #1:** Number of private sector businesses engaged in response or DRR-related activities as a result of the program.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase.

**Indicator #2:** Targeted total number of individuals indirectly benefiting from DRR-related activities as a result of the program.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase.

**Indicator #3:** Percentage of businesses in the target business category in the program area incorporated into project activities.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase.

**Indicator #4:** Percentage of government disaster contingency plans that incorporate private-sector aspects.

**Current Measure:** N/A; project still in initiation phase.

#### **Resources:**

**Budget for Objective 1 Q2-NTR:** \$ 31,821.40      **Expended This Period :** \$ 30,145.70

**Cumulative Expenditures to Date:** \$ 30,145.70      **Balance in this Quarter:** \$ 1,675.70

*Variance in to-date cumulative expenditures was due to delayed scheduling of the kick-off workshop do to participant availability and the ongoing hiring process for a Technical Advisor to serve as regional project coordinator which has delayed expected staffing expenditures.*

## **II. Program Overview**

**Goal:** To enhance disaster preparedness and resilience in coastal cities in up to three countries in Southeast Asia – especially in response to the risks associated with climate change – through improved public engagement on resilience. The project will do this by helping the participating coastal cities to identify and address their top risks to community resilience and by strengthening household resilience city- and township-wide.

**Result 1:** Stakeholders in coastal cities have easy access to tools and guidance to help them form civic coalitions to guide and support community analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making on coastal resilience

**Result 2:** Public-Private Partnerships to advance civic engagement on coastal resilience are significantly strengthened in coastal cities.

**Needs:** Communities worldwide have greater opportunities for growth and connectedness than ever before; yet the number of people exposed to hazards, shocks, and stresses is rapidly increasing, especially

in coastal cities, leading to increased fragility and vulnerability. At the same time, people living in cities are themselves agents of change and have significant resources, skills, and capacities to bring to resilience efforts in their own communities and across their cities and districts.

Numerous community organizations do significant humanitarian and development work in vulnerable neighborhoods, and this is helping to build social capital and local capacity. However they are not able to address the full range of needs related to resilience and are also frequently unable to relay unaddressed concerns – including many related to disaster risks – to corresponding municipal or national authorities, or to other potential partners.

To strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change, cities need an enhanced level of civic engagement that draws on the strength and growing diversity of urban communities and that can effectively complement formal governance structures by engaging a wider set of stakeholders to focus on resilience at the community and household level. Combined with the community-based, neighborhood approaches that the RC/RC and community organizations have long invested in, this type of civic engagement in urban settings will provide a bottom-up push to accelerate local risk-sensitive decision-making and influence development, governance and investment for effective community resilience outcomes. This civic engagement would also provide a platform for community organizations to connect with existing urban resilience campaigns such as the UN-ISDR Making Cities Resilient campaign and the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities challenge.

#### **Targeted Population:**

- 250,000 people in Phase 1 in and 250,000 people in Phase 2. This includes 25,000 people/households in each of 20 cities/townships (10 in the first pilot country and 10 more total in up to 2 other countries in Southeast Asia) as part of city-wide campaigns to promote community safety and resilience.
- Creation of a community resilience coalition with a diverse range of partner organizations in each city.
- Creation of a set of support services to support the work of the coalitions.

#### **Stakeholders:**

- RC/RC National Societies in SE Asia and the Pacific: Lead implementing agencies (with potentially National Societies serving as the lead implementing agencies for the first round of piloting – pending USAID/OFDA approval of planned modification)
- Additional RC/RC National Societies not selected as pilot countries: Regional peer learning countries
- Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: Providing technical assistance in analysis and application of climate change scenarios and adaptation solutions
- ARC: Provide funding and technical assistance
- IFRC: Provide technical input as appropriate to complement and link with ongoing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs in the participating countries.

### **III. Program Performance**

#### **Actual Accomplishments** (compared to stated objectives, indicators, and targets):

During the quarter, the Prototyping an Urban Community Resilience Initiative in SE Asia project has achieved the following:

- The kick-off workshop for the project was held in early March with representatives from seven RC/RC National Societies from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam; three regional resource organizations – the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Institute for social and Environmental Transitions (ISET), and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate

Centre; and USAID/OFDA project counterparts. The National Society from Fiji was also invited but did not participate as the National Society was occupied with disaster response to Cyclone Winston in the weeks before the workshop.

- After the workshop each of the National Societies was invited to submit a short concept note outlining their interest in the project, likely partner interest at country level, their experience with coalitions and multi-stakeholder partnerships in previous projects, and their initial plan for initiating the project in up to two cities in their country.
- Concept notes were submitted by the RC/RC National Societies in five countries (Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam) and reviewed by the GDPC in consultation with USAID/OFDA project staff. Selection of the first pilot countries is pending. (The inclusion of multiple pilot countries is pending approval of a planned modification that has been discussed with USAID/OFDA staff overseeing the project).

**Staffing:** Project activities are being supported by the headquarters staff working on the project. Additional staff support for the project is being initiated through the hiring of a Technical Advisor to serve as regional project coordinator. The hiring process is expected to be completed early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**Reasons why established targets were not met, if applicable, and how it will impact the objective.**

Scheduling of the kick-off workshop was delayed until early March due to participant availability.

At the kick-off workshop there was strong interest from the RC/RC National Societies that participated to have the GDPC and USAID/OFDA expand the number of pilot countries and provide additional opportunities for a wider range of RC/RC National Societies to participate at early stages of the project. The GDPC discussed potential expansion of the number of pilot countries from one to three with the USAID/OFDA representatives that participated in the workshop. The USAID/OFDA representatives at the workshop expressed openness to the change if the GDPC could create a feasible plan for it within the existing obligation and pending the potential need for submission and approval of a modification. Consideration of the potential expansion slowed the selection of pilot countries which will be finalized in the next quarter.

As a result the GDPC team also chose to slow initiation of the tool development portion of the project to ensure that country level partners have a role in the design and development of the toolkits and learning courses that are being developed within the project. To address the slower than anticipated start, the project team is working to rapidly proceed with the toolkit development components of the project in subsequent quarters.

**Work Plan for Next Quarter:**

Activity	April				May				June			
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
Finalize selection of 1st set of pilot countries	X	X	X	X								
Hire project coordinator	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Initiate project activities at country level							X	X				
Negotiate sub-grant agreements with National Societies in 2 pilot countries									X	X	X	X
Review pilot cities suggested by NS								X	X	X		
Brief suggested RC/RC branches and counterpart organizations in those cities												X
Outreach to RC/RC membership globally to review existing initiatives on city risk assessment										X	X	

**Comments:** During the upcoming quarter, major activities will focus on finalization of the selection of pilot countries, finalization of the hiring of the Technical Advisor for the regional project coordinator, and initiation of country activities in the pilot countries.

**Success Stories:**

The interest expressed by RC/RC National Societies at the kick-off workshop to participate in the project was strong and led to a decision to pursue a faster rollout of the project in more countries. The GDPC is developing a modification request to USAID/OFDA to expand the number of initial project countries from one to potentially three and to add a regional peer learning role for the other countries that are not selected to be pilot countries for Phase 1 but may be part of the Phase 2 expansion.

**Programmatic Changes:**

As mentioned above, there was strong interest from the RC/RC National Societies that participated in the kick-off workshop to have the GDPC and USAID/OFDA expand the number of pilot countries and provide additional opportunities for a wider range of RC/RC National Societies to participate at early stages of the project. The GDPC is currently analyzing the feasibility for this change and develop a proposed modification for USAID/OFDA review and approval.

Otherwise there were no unforeseen circumstances affecting overall program performance compared to original assumptions during this quarter.

**Explanation of Any Unexpected Financial Deviations:**

The financial report currently shows a cumulative under-spend due to delays in the certain project activities as outlined above.

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